

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/011,014

Examiner

Peter Choi

Applicant(s)

NELSON, EUGENE C.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed 11/22/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 3-5 and 10-22.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Robert Bodi on February 2, 2007.

Claim 4 (currently amended): A method for evaluating survey information for a medical enterprise comprising the steps of:

collecting, ~~in advance~~, said survey information from a plurality of sources, said survey information including:

satisfaction data from one or more of patients, members of families of the patients, and employees of said medical enterprise,

physical assessment data representing one or both of physical capabilities and/or mental capabilities of said patients,

medical outcome data about said patients,

clinical process data from said medical enterprise, and

cost data about costs of said medical enterprise,

electronically maintaining a database for storing said survey; information,

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a user selecting a measurement option from a list of a plurality of available measurement options displayed on a display device, and

presenting survey assessment results to the user by performing the steps of:

electronically retrieving from the survey information a subset of said survey information for calculating outputs based on the selected measurement option,

electronically performing calculations on the subset of information for generating said outputs, and

electronically controlling the display device to display a graphical report based on the selected measurement option using said outputs,

wherein said displayed graphical report presents at least four view for evaluating said enterprise, said at least four views including:

clinical outcome graphical information about said medical enterprise operations calculated by utilizing some portion of said medical outcome data and/or said clinical process data,

functional outcome graphical information about functional outcomes of said medical enterprise calculated by utilizing some portion of said physical assessment data,

satisfaction outcome graphical information about satisfaction outcomes of said medical enterprise calculated by utilizing some portion of said satisfaction data, and

cost outcome graphical information calculated by utilizing some portion of said cost data,

and wherein said clinical outcome graphical information includes a plurality of mortality and morbidity measures of patients, wherein said functional outcome graphical information includes two or more of physical function, mental health, social function, and health status information of patients, wherein said satisfaction outcome graphical information includes one or both of satisfaction measures of patients and/or their families, and enterprise employees, and wherein said cost outcome graphical information includes one or both of satisfaction measures of patients and/or their families, and enterprise employees, and wherein said cost outcome graphical information includes one or both of measures of direct medical costs and indirect social costs,

wherein a user choosing another measurement option from said list of measurement options causes a contemporaneous presenting of updated survey assessment results by performing said retrieving, performing calculations, and electronically controlling steps with additional portions of said survey data collected in advance.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

2. Claims 3-5, and 10-22 are allowed.

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3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The cited prior art, taken alone or in combination, fails to teach the claimed invention as set forth in claims.

Specifically, the invention set forth in claims 3-5 and 10-22 is directed towards a method and system for evaluating survey information for a medical enterprise comprising the steps of:

collecting said survey information from a plurality of sources, said survey information including:

satisfaction data from one or more of patients, members of families of the patients, and employees of said medical enterprise,

physical assessment data representing one or both of physical capabilities and mental capabilities of said patients,

medical outcome data about said patients,

clinical process data from said medical enterprise, and

cost data about costs of said medical enterprise,

electronically maintaining a database for storing said survey information,

a user selecting a measurement option from a list of a plurality of available measurement options displayed on a display device, and

presenting survey assessment results to the user by performing the steps of:

electronically retrieving from the survey information a subset of said survey information for calculating outputs based on the selected measurement option,

electronically performing calculations on the subset of information for generating said outputs, and

electronically controlling the display device to display a graphical report based on the selected measurement option using said outputs,

wherein said displayed graphical report presents at least four view for evaluating said enterprise, said at least four views including:

clinical outcome graphical information about said medical enterprise operations calculated by utilizing some portion of said medical outcome data and/or said clinical process data,

functional outcome graphical information about functional outcomes of said medical enterprise calculated by utilizing some portion of said physical assessment data,

satisfaction outcome graphical information about satisfaction outcomes of said medical enterprise calculated by utilizing some portion of said satisfaction data, and

cost outcome graphical information calculated by utilizing some portion of said cost data,

and wherein said clinical outcome graphical information includes a plurality of mortality and morbidity measures of patients, wherein sad functional

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outcome graphical information includes two or more of physical function, mental health, social function, and health status information of patients, wherein said satisfaction outcome graphical information includes one or both of satisfaction measures of patients and/or their families, and enterprise employees, and wherein said cost outcome graphical information includes one or both of satisfaction measures of patients and/or their families, and enterprise employees, and wherein said cost outcome graphical information includes one or both of measures of direct medical costs and indirect social costs, wherein a user choosing another measurement option from said list of measurement options causes a contemporaneous presenting of updated survey assessment results by performing said retrieving, performing calculations, and electronically controlling steps with additional portions of said survey data collected in advance.

4. The closest prior art on record, Kraftson et al., teaches the steps of collecting and populating a database with physician/patient data obtained from surveys and stored in a database, which is retrievable. Kraftson et al. displays satisfaction measures of patients with regards to medical treatment and care, office procedures, cost, diagnosis groups of patients (i.e., health status information). Statistical analysis (i.e., calculations) is performed on the stored physician/patient data. Kraftson et al. does not teach physical capabilities and mental capabilities of patients, mortality and morbidity measures of patients, physical function, mental health, or social function of patients, and satisfaction measures of enterprise employees and patients' families. The survey data collected by

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Kraftson et a. is not obtained by employees of the medical enterprise, nor is the medical outcome of patients or clinical process data of said medical enterprise collected. The satisfaction data taught by Kraftson et al. is not based on any calculation of collected data. Kraftson et al. does not allow the user to choose a measurement option that causes a contemporaneous presentation of updated survey assessment results.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Renaud (WO 99/59096) teaches a customer survey system and method to receive customer survey data and create at least one report web page with at least one graphical depiction of customer data hosted by a reporting server.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Peter Choi whose telephone number is (571) 272 6971. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tariq Hafiz can be reached on (571) 272-6729. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

PC

February 5, 2007

C. Michelle Tarac
C. Michelle Tarac
Primary Patent Examiner
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